

CLAIMS:

1 1. For a switched telephone network, switching equipment comprising:
2 a switch operating in said switched telephone network and operable to:
3 (a) establish telephonic communications between callers and called
4 parties over a predetermined number of subscriber lines with a standard ring
5 pattern, and
6 (b) transmit an emergency ring pattern over a majority of said subscriber
7 lines in response to a single command event.

1 2. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a link for sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said
4 single command event, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence
5 elsewhere of a response performed locally by said switch in response to said
6 single command event.

1 3. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said
2 link comprises a common channel signaling network.

1 4. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said
2 link comprises a common channel signaling network coupled to said switch,
3 said switch being operable to transmit said broadcast signal to said link.

1 5. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast
3 signal.

1 6. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

1 7. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a database having information about said subscriber lines, said switching
4 equipment being operable to send said emergency ring pattern to a portion of
5 said subscriber lines from said database in response to said single command
6 event.

1 8. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said
2 switching equipment is operable to transmit said emergency ring pattern at
3 different times for different groupings of the subscriber lines.

1 9. For a switched telephone network according to claim 8 wherein said
2 switching equipment is operable to multiplex said emergency ring pattern in
3 order to ring in the same time period with a different phase.

1 10. For a switched telephone network according to claim 8 wherein said
2 subscriber lines are segregated into a plurality of ordered tiers, said switching
3 equipment being operable to sequentially ring individual ones of said ordered
4 tiers exclusively before completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1 11. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a link for sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said
4 single command event to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs,
5 in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response
6 performed locally by said switch in response to said single command event.

1 12. For a switched telephone network employing a common channel
2 signaling network, switching equipment comprising:

3 a switch operating in said switched telephone network and operable to:
4 (a) establish telephonic communications between callers and called

5 parties over a plurality of subscriber lines with a standard ring pattern, and
6 (b) transmit an emergency ring pattern in response to a single command
7 event conveyed to said switch over said common channel signaling network.

1 13. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a link for sending a broadcast signal over said common channel signaling
4 network signifying the occurrence of said single command event, in order to
5 broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed locally
6 by said switch in response to said single command event.

1 14. For a switched telephone network according to claim 13 wherein said
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast
3 signal.

1 15. For a switched telephone network according to claim 13 wherein said
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

1 16. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a database having information about said subscriber lines, said switching
4 equipment being operable to send said emergency ring pattern to a portion of
5 said subscriber lines from said database in response to said single command
6 event.

1 17. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said
2 switching equipment is operable to transmit said emergency ring pattern at
3 different times for different groupings of the subscriber lines.

1 18. For a switched telephone network according to claim 17 wherein said
2 switching equipment is operable to multiplex said emergency ring pattern in

3 order to ring in the same time period with a different phase.

1 19. For a switched telephone network according to claim 17 wherein said
2 subscriber lines are segregated into a plurality of ordered tiers, said switching
3 equipment being operable to sequentially ring individual ones of said ordered
4 tiers exclusively before completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1 20. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a link for sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said
4 single command event to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs, in
5 order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed
6 locally by said switch in response to said single command event.

1 21. In a communications system having a switched telephone network
2 and a common channel signaling network, an emergency broadcast system
3 comprising:

4 an emergency center for issuing a broadcast signal destined to travel on
5 said common channel signaling network and having information designed to
6 initiate on said switched telephone network:

7 (a) switching that simultaneously connects a plurality of telephones; and
8 (b) transmission of a distinct ring pattern to said plurality of telephones.

1 22. In a communications system according to claim 21 wherein said
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast
3 signal.

1 23. In a communications system according to claim 21 wherein said
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

1 24. In a communications system according to claim 21 wherein said

2 emergency center comprises:

3 a link for sending the broadcast signal to one or more cellular telephone
4 networks and PBXs.

1 25. A method employing a switched telephone network and a common
2 channel signaling network for broadcasting an emergency signal, comprising the
3 steps of:

4 receiving a broadcast signal on said common channel signaling network;
5 performing switching on said switched telephone network in response to
6 said broadcast signal in order to simultaneously connect a plurality of
7 telephones; and

8 transmitting an emergency ring pattern to said plurality of telephones.

1 26. A method according to claim 25 comprising the step of:

2 sending the broadcast signal over said common channel signaling
3 network, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a
4 response performed locally.

1 27. A method according to claim 26 wherein said broadcast signal
2 includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast signal.

1 28. A method according to claim 26 wherein said broadcast signal
2 includes information signifying an emergency type.

1 29. A method according to claim 25 wherein a database of subscriber
2 lines is maintained for local switching equipment, the method including the step
3 of:

4 sending said emergency ring pattern to a portion of said subscriber lines
5 from said database in response to said broadcast signal.

1 30. A method according to claim 25 wherein the step of transmitting a

2 ring pattern is performed by transmitting said emergency ring pattern at
3 different times for different groupings of subscriber lines.

1 31. A method according to claim 30 wherein the step of transmitting a
2 ring pattern is performed by multiplexing said emergency ring pattern in order
3 to ring different lines in the same time period with a different phase.

1 32. A method according to claim 30 wherein a central office has
2 jurisdiction over a plurality of subscriber lines that are segregated into a plurality
3 of ordered tiers, the step of transmitting a ring pattern being performed by
4 sequentially ringing individual ones of said ordered tiers exclusively before
5 completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1 33. A method according to claim 25 comprising the step of:
2 sending the broadcast signal to one or more cellular telephone networks
3 and PBXs, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a
4 response performed locally in response to said broadcast signal.

1 34. A method employing a switched telephone network and a common
2 channel signaling network for broadcasting an emergency signal in response to
3 a single command event, comprising the steps of:

4 establishing telephonic communications between callers and called parties
5 over a predetermined number of subscriber lines with a standard ring pattern,
6 and

7 transmitting an emergency ring pattern over a majority of said subscriber
8 lines in response to a single command event.

1 35. A method according to claim 34 comprising the step of:
2 sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said single
3 command event, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of
4 a response performed locally in response to said single command event.

1 36. A method according to claim 35 wherein the broadcast signal
2 includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast signal.

1 37. A method according to claim 35 wherein said broadcast signal
2 includes information signifying an emergency type.

1 38. A method according to claim 34 wherein a database of subscriber
2 lines is maintained for local switching equipment, the method including the step
3 of:

4 sending said emergency ring pattern to a portion of said subscriber lines
5 from said database in response to said single command event.

1 39. A method according to claim 34 wherein the step of transmitting an
2 emergency ring pattern is performed by transmitting said emergency ring pattern
3 at different times for different groupings of lines.

1 40. A method according to claim 39 wherein the step of transmitting an
2 emergency ring pattern is performed by multiplexing said emergency ring pattern
3 in order to ring different lines in the same time period with a different phase.

1 41. A method according to claim 39 wherein a central office has
2 jurisdiction over a plurality of subscriber lines that are segregated into a plurality
3 of ordered tiers, the step of transmitting a ring pattern being performed by
4 sequentially ringing individual ones of said ordered tiers exclusively before
5 completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1 42. A method according to claim 34 wherein comprising the step of:
2 sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said single
3 command event to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs, in order
4 to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed

5 locally in response to said single command event.